

**IRENE CLAUDETTE MORTON**

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**EDUCATION**

1990 Doctor of Education, University of Montana

Primary Areas of Study: Education Administration & Supervision and Curriculum & Instruction

Supporting Area of Study: Higher Education

Dissertation Topic--*The Impact of the Montana Teacher Education Program Standards on Colleges and Universities, 1980-1985.*

1986 Internship in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, Helena, Montana.

1978 Robert A. Taft Institute of Government Fellow, University of Wyoming.

Masters of Arts in Drama, University of Montana

Thesis topic--*The Effect of Red & Blue Lighting on Audience Response to a Dramatic Performance.*

Bachelor of Arts in Drama with a Broadfield English Teaching Major, University of Montana.

Additional graduate studies and seminars in government, leadership, media, technology, arts, humanities, research and education.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

1996 to 2010 Montana Small Schools Alliance, Helena, Montana. Executive Director.

This is non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide research, resources, technical assistance and workshops to the small schools of Montana to aid them in meeting state and federal mandates in an educationally sound manner. MSSA founding members include the Montana Association of County School Superintendents; the Montana Rural Education Center, University of Montana—Western; College of Education, Health and Human Development, Montana State University—Bozeman; and the Montana School Boards Association.

1990 - 1996 University of Montana--Western, Dillon, Montana. Director of the Montana Rural Education Center, Associate Professor of Education, and State Accreditation Officer for the Education Division. Director of the Montana Rural Drug Free Schools Program 1990-1993. The Rural Education Center was endorsed as a Rural Education Research Center by the

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National Rural Education Association, October 1994. The Center is now one of five in the nation with such a designation. The Center also received the NREA/Howard A. Dawson Award for Service at the NREA convention in Tuscaloosa, AL, October 1994.

1986 - 1990 Board of Public Education, Helena, Montana.

Executive Secretary to the Board, State Agency Director and Administrator to the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (1987-1990). Chief architect of state public school accreditation standards and aligning the state teacher education standards to the accreditation standards. Both were enacted January 1989.

1978 -1986 Office of Public Instruction, Helena, Montana.

English Language Arts Specialist, K-12, Liaison to County Superintendents (1981 - 1986), participated in and chaired a variety of school and college accreditation committees for state, Northwest and teacher certification programs, grant writer and co-coordinator of a seven year school/college collaboration project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through the Council of Chief State School Officers.

Prior Experience also includes English professor, high school teacher, professional and educational theatre work in Montana, Texas and Germany, and instructor of creative dramatics and storytelling. In addition have been a researcher, grant writer, chair and organizer of local, county, regional, state and national meetings, conferences and workshops. Adjunct professor at three universities and colleges. Presenter at conferences, seminars and workshops in 40 states, China, Scotland, England and Canada.

Holder of Montana Teaching Certificate with teaching endorsements in English and drama, 5 - 12, and administrative endorsements of Secondary Principal, 5 - 12, Curriculum Supervisor and Superintendent, K - 12.

### **PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH (A Partial List)**

“Challenges and Sustainability Practices of Frontier Schools in Montana,” *The Rural Educator*, Volume 33, Number 1, Fall 2011, pp1-14. Co-author Hobart Harmon.

*Essential Understandings of Montana Hutterites*, a guide for Montana educators and students. Principle Researcher and Editor, Montana Office of Public Instruction, Helena, MT, October 2010.

*Equity in Montana's Public Schools: What We Know, What We Need to Do*. Utilizing a variety of Montana data, it is clear that our efforts need to be directed to improving learning for boys and American Indians. A paper commissioned by the Montana Association of University Women and funded by a grant from the Women's Foundation of Montana, May 2004.

*Montana Response to “No Child Left Behind” Policy Inventory*, the State Action for Education Leadership Project and the Wallace Foundation, March 2004.

*Montana Small Schools Technology Survey, 2002-2003*, the Montana Small Schools Alliance, Helena, MT.

Editor of *the Montana Rural Education Curriculum Guide, 2000 through 2010 Editions*, the Montana Small Schools Alliance, Helena, MT. (Reading & Literature, Speaking & Listening, Writing, Mathematics, Science, The Arts, Health Enhancement, Social Studies, Technology/Library/Media Literacy, Career/Vocational/Workplace Competencies, and World Languages).

Editor of *the Montana Small Schools Self-Evaluation Guide, 2000*, the Montana Small Schools Alliance and the Montana Office of Public Instruction, Helena, MT, March 2000.

Guest Editor of *the Rural Educator*, the Official Journal of the National Rural Education Association, Vol.21, Number 1, Fall 1999.

A National Arts Test: NAEP Establishes New Ways to Assess Our Theatre Students, *Teaching Theatre*, Spring 1999, Vol. 10, Number 3, 3-6.

Principal Author of *Quality Teaching, Quality Schools: Strengthening Montana’s Most Important Profession: Report of the Montana Commission on Teaching*. (Montana was one of twelve partner states with the National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future to examine and make recommendations with regard to their teaching profession.) Governor’s Office, Helena, MT, January 1999.

Collaborating author of *The NAEP 1997 Arts Report Card: Eighth--Grade Findings from the National Assessment of Educational Progress*. (A book and a CD-Rom) U. S Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, National Center for Educational Statistics, Washington, D.C., November 1998.

Co-author of *NAEP and Theatre: Framework, Field Test, and Assessment*. U. S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, National Center for Educational Statistics, Washington, D.C., August 1998.

Editor of *Technology Planning for Montana’s Schools*. Produced by the Montana Association of County School Superintendents and the Montana Small Schools Alliance with a special Grant from ARCO. Printed and Distributed by the Montana Office of Public Instruction, Helena, MT, July 1998.

In-State Researcher and Author of *Montana Commission on Teaching Policy Inventory*. Governor’s Office, Helena, MT, June 1998.

The Understanding of Local Context in Teacher Education, *The Rural Educator*, the official journal of the National Rural Education Association. Vol. 19, Number 1, Fall 1997, 1-6.

Editor of *the Montana Rural School Board Policy Handbook: Guidelines for Local Trustees in K-8 Multigrade Elementary Districts, 1997 through 1109 Editions*. Montana Small Schools Alliance, Helena, MT.

“State Accreditation Standards and Charter Schools: A Natural Bridge or an Unattainable Gulf?” a chapter in *Public Education Policy Issues in Montana* published by the Burton K. Wheeler Foundation, Montana State University, Bozeman, 1995.

Guest Editor of *The Rural Educator*, the Official Journal of the National Rural Education Association, Vol. 14, No. 1, Fall 1992.

Technology in Education: A Study of Policy and Practice in Rural Schools, a book review for *Educational Technology Research and Development*, Vol. 40, No.2, 1992, 107-108.

*The Annual Report of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council to the Board of Public Education*, January 1990 and December 1988 Editions, Helena, MT.

*Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order for the Board of Public Education*, for all hearings on Denial, Suspension and Revocation of Montana Teaching Certificates, August 1986 to June 1990, Helena, MT.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PARTICIPATION** (A Partial List)

**Improving Students’ Writing through Collaborative Assessment**, Association of Supervision and Curriculum, San Antonio, TX, March, 2010.

**\*How Far Have We Come Down the Dusty Road: An Analysis of Ten Years of Study of the Working Conditions in the Rural Multi-grade Elementary Schools of Montana**, a juried research forum presentation, National Rural Education Association, Indianapolis, IN, October 22, 2004.

**A Partnership Model for Improving the Infusion of Technology in Teacher Education**, Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education International Conference, Atlanta, GA, March 3, 2004.

**NCLB and Rural/Small School, the Montana Perspective**, an invited presentation at the First

Annual Policy Forum, the Center for Policy Studies, Education Research, and Community Development, Intermountain Center for Education Effectiveness, College of Education, Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID, December 11, 2003.

**No Child Left Behind**, part of Montana State Team to the U.S. Department of Education regional conference in Denver, November, 2002.

**Pathways to College Roundtable**, invited to participate in this roundtable discussion of state leaders by the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Superintendent of Public Education, October 2, 2002.

**Who Will Teach Our Children?** Moderator and presenter of a juried panel presentation, National Rural Education Association, Albuquerque, NM, October 26, 2001.

**Arts Assessment**, a requested presentation for the National Assessment Governing Board, April 14, 1999.

**Overview of the 1997 NAEP Arts Assessment**, requested presentation for the Advanced Training Workshop: Use of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 1997 Arts Database, National Center for Education Statistics, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C., September 30, 1999.

**The 1997 NAEP Arts Assessment: Implications for State Education Agencies, Higher Education, School Districts and Classrooms**, a juried presentation at the Council of Chief State School Officers' Large Scale Assessment Conference, Snowbird, UT, June 15, 1999.

**Assessment in the Arts: The Nation's Report Card Preparing for the Results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Assessment in the Arts**, a requested panel presentation for the 1998 KCAAEN Annual Leadership Meeting, Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C., October 30, 1998.

**Aesthetic Literacy under the Big Sky and The Framework for Aesthetic Literacy: The Montana Arts and English Curriculum**, two juried panels at the Sixth National Conference on School/College Collaboration, Washington, D.C., October, 1995.

**School/College Partnerships through Computer Networking**. A juried presentation at the National Rural Education Association Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL, October 1994.

**A Comparison of the Content Mastery Examination for Educators (CMEE) and the PRAXIS I Academic Skills Assessment for Initial Certification of Montana Educators**, commissioned research and report to the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council of the Montana Board of Public Education, Helena, MT October 1994.

**Montana Arts and English Curriculum Framework**, external evaluator, funded by a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Reform of Schools and Teaching, Innovation in Education Program, State Curriculum Frameworks, U.S. Department of Education, Montana OPI, Helena, MT, 1992-1995.

Montana's Representative to the **Educational Testing Service Western Regional Teacher Assessment Conference**, Berkeley/Oakland, CA, May 1990. Invitation only.

**Welcome Address, Workshop: How to Improve the English Language Arts Program Through Public Policy, and Panelist for Professional Growth Opportunities: A Rousing Panel**, at the Northwest Regional National Council of Teachers of English Conference, Billings, MT, April 1990.

**The Montana Educational Challenge Project 1983-89: A School/College Collaboration Project** at The Mellon Capstone Conference, sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers, Tucson, AZ, February 1990. Invitation only.

**Certification in Montana**, a requested presentation for the Interim Legislative Committee on Accountability and Quality in Education, Helena, MT, January 1990.

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

National Rural Education Association—Foundation Board 2010- , Bylaws Committee 2004-2009, Editorial Board 1997-2004, Chair of the Higher Education Committee, 1998-2002, Voting Delegate 1991- , Program Chair for the NREA 2002 Conference in Portland, Oregon.

Phi Delta Kappa

National and Montana Association of Supervision and Curriculum

Delta Kappa Gamma--Past Local President and State Conference Speaker

National Council of Teachers of English--Past Resolutions Committee & member of the College English Education Commission on Supervision and Curriculum Development, Assembly of Rural Teachers of English and Montana Association of Teachers of English and Language Arts

National Education Association, Life Member

Montana Alliance for Arts in Education--Past State President

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT**

Chapter 55 Task Force, a review and revision of the Montana School Accreditation Standards,

Montana Board of Public Education and the Office of Public Instruction, Helena, MT, 2010-.

Common Core State Standards Analysis Team, English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects, Helena, MT, August, 2010

Trainer for Surveys of Enacted Curriculum, University of Wisconsin, and researcher to compare Montana Small Schools Achievement Scores with the results of their Surveys of Enacted Curriculum. Also served on analysis teams comparing state and other countries standards to Surveys of Enacted Curriculum, 2005-2009.

Scorer for the Montana University System Writing Assessment and Trainer, Helena, MT 2006-2010.

Member of the Steering Committee for the National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning, Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, Austin, TX, 2004-2008.

Member of the Re-engineering Advisory Committee to Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Portland, OR, 2001-2005.

Outside evaluator for the Montana GEAR-UP Program, a U.S. Department of Education grant with the Montana Commissioner of Higher Education Preparation Program Standards Review Process Advisory Panel to the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education, 2004-2009.

Member of the Montana Assessment Advisory Taskforce to the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education, 2000 –2008.

Co-coordinator of the Montana Student Content and Performance Arts Standards, Office of Public Instruction, Helena, MT, 1999-2000.

In-State Researcher for the Montana Commission on Teaching and America's Future, 1997-99.

Member of the National Review Panel for the Blue Ribbon Schools Program, United States Department of Education, Washington, D.C., 1996-97.

Commissioned to research and edit the *Sample District Consolidated Plan* by the Montana Association of County School Superintendents, Helena, MT, 1996.

Member of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory's Rural Teacher Preparation Design Team, which created *Great Expectations: Preparing Rural Teachers for Educational Reform*, Portland, OR, June 1995.

Chair of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 1997 Arts Assessment, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 1995-99.

Member of the Advisory Board to the Center for the Study of Small/Rural Schools, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, 1993-1997.

Member of the Rural Education Advisory Committee of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Portland, OR, 1991-1996.

Delegate and Resolutions Committee Chair of the Montana Governor Conference on Libraries and Information Services, Helena, MT, October 1990.

### **GRANTS WRITTEN, RECEIVED AND ADMINISTERED**

Title II Improving Teacher Quality Higher Education Grant, *Writing Instruction Now*, 2006-2010.

Indian Education for All, Professional Development Grants, *Office of Public Instruction* 2007-2008 and 2009-2010.

Title II, K-12 State grant for Surveys of Enacted Curriculum research. 2006-2007.

*Or Y Plata* Foundation, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010.

Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology, A Capacity Building Grant, U. S. Department of Education, September 1999-2000 and an Implementation Grant, June 2000-2004.

National Endowment for the Arts, September 2000 – 2001.

Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, September 1997-1999.

ARCO Foundation, 1997-1998.

Drug Free Schools, U.S. Department of Education, 1992-1994.

National Governors Association, 1988.

Council of Chief State School Officers, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, four grants, 1982 -1988.

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

**State Superintendent Juneau Proclamation Declared Claudette Morton Appreciation Day,**  
June 25, 2010

**One of *Edutopia* magazine's Daring Dozen,** The George Lucas Educational Foundation, May 2007



Member of the Advisory Board to the Center for the Study of Small/Rural Schools, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, 1993-1997.

Member of the Rural Education Advisory Committee of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, Portland, OR, 1991-1996.

Delegate and Resolutions Committee Chair of the Montana Governor Conference on Libraries and Information Services, Helena, MT, October 1990.

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*Or Y Plata* Foundation, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010.

Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology, A Capacity Building Grant, U. S. Department of Education, September 1999-2000 and an Implementation Grant, June 2000-2004.

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Drug Free Schools, U.S. Department of Education, 1992-1994.

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